(b) if so, the names of those districts;

(c) whether not a single Krishi Vigyan Kendra has been opened in the State after 1994;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to provide Krishi Vigyan Kendra in all the remaining districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Krishi Vigyan Kendra have been established in 12 out of 30 districts of Orissa.

(b) The districts without KVKs are :

1. Mayurbhanj
2. Bolangir
3. Sundergarh
4. Gajapati
5. Rayagada
6. Malkangiri
7. Nowrangpur
8. Bhadrak
9. Deogarh
10. Jharsuguda
11. Jaypur
12. Jagat Singhpur
13. Khurda
14. Nayagarh
15. Baragarh
16. Boudha
17. Nowapara
18. Sonepur

(c) and (d). Indian Council of Agricultural Research could not establish more Krishi Vigyan Kendras due to paucity of funds.

(e) Planning Commission has been approached for allotment of additional funds to establish more Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Surplus Onions and Potatoes

1582. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there have been surplus onions and potatoes in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government have released any amount to Karnataka for purchasing onions and potatoes from the farmers.

(c) if so, the details in the regard;

(d) the quantity of onions and potatoes purchased by NAFED and other Central Government agencies from Karnataka;

(e) whether the Government are also aware that though the rates of onions and potatoes being given to farmers are less the selling rates in the market are on higher side; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to stop the middlemen from making profit by cheating both the farmers and consumers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka have estimated production of onion during Kharif 1996 season to be of the order of 2,68,200 MTs with 1,25,000 MTs. marketable surplus and that of potato to be of the order of 3,50,000 MTs. with marketable surplus of 1,50,000 MTs.

(b) and (c). The Central Government has not released any amount to Government of Karnataka for purchasing onions and potatoes from the farmers.

(d) The Central Government in collaboration with Government of Karnataka implemented Market Intevention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of onions and potatoes in Karnataka for 15th October, 1996 to 15th November, 1996. Under the MIS National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited. (NAFED) as the single Central Agency has produced 156 MTs. of onion. No quantity of potato was procured under MIS.

(e) During November, 1996 in Karnataka the wholesale rates of onions are ruling in the range of Rs. 350 to 700/- for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) per Qtl. and that of potatoes between Rs. 335 to 550 per qtl. FAQ. The retail rates for onions in Karnataka are ranging between Rs. 4.00 to 7.00 per Kg. and that of potatoes between Rs. 4.50 to 7.00 per kg. Thus, the prevailing wholesale rates of both onions and potatoes are quite remunerative for the farmers as compared to the Market Intervention Prices fixed under MIS.

(f) The selling prices of perishables commodities as compared to wholesale rates are always on higher side due to various handling charges like transportation, labour charges, spoilage etc. The prevailing wholesale rates are quite favourable for the farmers and the selling prices for consumers are also reasonable as compared to wholesale prices of perishable commodities like onion and potatoes.

However, whenever the prices of onions and potatoes fall below the economic levels and the farmers are forced to resort to distress sale, the Central Government implement Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) if the concerned State Government approaches the Central Government with their proposal and is willing to share 50% losses, if any, under MIS.